How My People Came to Utah to America

by Earl Decke

Sophia Elizabeth Moulton Hicken (Addison)

In Irchester, Northamptonshire on October 3, 1853 Sophia Elizabeth was born to Thomas and Sarah Denton Moulton. The message of the restored gospel brought peace and happiness to thier home. On Dec. 29, 1841 they became members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. They started on their journey to join the saints in May 3, 1856. When they were finally packed and loaded, a large trunk with a lot of valuable clothes had to be left behind. Also a fine feather bed they were given the promise that these articles would be sent by teams but the Moultons never saw them again.

While crossing the English Channel on May 5, 1856 Mrs. Sarah Moulton gave birth to a child. She was promised by a servant of God that while crossing to Utah that no one would die of their family of seven.

They were six weeks on the sea in a sailing vessell. When they landed on the harbor of New York June 14, 1856. They went to Winter Quarters, from there we reached Iowa, they were delayed about three weeks because the handcarts were not ready for them to start. They left Iowa July 16, 1856. When they were out a few miles from town the wheels began to get loose, first one place then the other, And that delayed the company so much that it threw them right into the winter before they reached the Salt Lake Valley. There was a great deal of suffering with shortage of food, cold weary, and tired out. Some of the people had to eat Rawhide roasted over a fire. They were forced day by day to lighten the load. All their possesions

were carried on the one handcart. Their Father one day threw away the lid to the teapot, but mother (Sarah Moulton) picked it up again.

When they became snowbound it is almost impossible to describe or imagine intense suffering of the group. Brother Heber had his fingers frozen so the bones had to be sawed off to the first knuckle. In the Moulton family there was: The father, Mother, Sarah, William, Mary Ann, Joseph, James, Heber, Charlotte, Sophia Elizabeth, and the new baby Charles Elma who was very thin and had to be carried on a pillow.

We arrived in Salt Lake Nov. 9, 1856. There Handcart company was known as the "Belated handcart company" under Captain Willie. When they reached emigration canyon President Brigham Young sent clothing, bedding, and food. Had he not been inspired to do so the company what was left would have perished in the snow. with no food whatever.

Before leaving England two sisters had small pox one sister died but Mary Ann lived. She had a pox mark on her wrist. Sarah knew that the officers of the ship would not let her by so she made gloves to put on her hand.

In the night one time the wolves howled all night they killed one. They were forced to kill one of their oxen to eat, so they had to buy another team at a nearby town.

While fording the river they got into some quicksand! It filled the spokes of the wheels as if they were going through deep snow. After we reached the other side of the river we made camp. (The Big Colorado)